

30 September 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. BIOTECHS GET RIVAL DEALS TO BUILD ANTHRAX VACCINE: *"Two rival biotechs -- Emergent BioSolutions of Rockville and PharmAthene of Annapolis -- announced yesterday that they received separate federal development contracts to build new anthrax vaccines."*

2. HOLT INTRODUCES ANTHRAX COMMISSION LEGISLATION - BILL WOULD CREATE 9/11 COMMISSION-STYLE PANEL TO INVESTIGATE ANTHRAX ATTACKS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE: *"Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today introduced the Anthrax Attacks Investigation Act of 2008, legislation that would establish a Congressional commission to investigate the 2001 anthrax attacks and the federal government's response to and investigation of the attacks."*

3. FIRST UK PROSECUTION HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: *"Two chemical company directors, Colin Stott and Simon Knowles, were sentenced on 24 September following convictions for failing to notify the Government that their company produced more than one tonne of a chemical controlled under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)."*

4. CHARLES FERGUSON: BEWARE OF NEW, EASY-TO-MAKE NUKES: *"In the past, malefactors seeking to enrich uranium to bomb-grade quality needed either a highly conspicuous industrial plant or specialized equipment that was hard to obtain and relatively easy to monitor. But there's a new method on the horizon, and it's potentially far easier to hide."*

Chem-Demil News

1. UTAH GOT BURNED IN WEAPONS SCREW-UP: *"Four months. That's how long it was supposed to take to rid Utah of its stockpile of the deadly blister agent lewisite."*

2. ANCDF [ANNISTON CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY] PASSES DEMILITARIZATION 50 PERCENT MARK: *"The team of Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) and Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) employees achieved another significant milestone Saturday. Working together, the team has now safely demilitarized more than 50 percent of the chemical munitions stored here."*

3. [LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY] DEPOT TO GET UP TO \$30 MILLION IN NEW FUNDING: *"Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell announced Saturday that the U.S. Senate approved a resolution containing his requests for up to \$30 million in additional funding for the Blue Grass Army Depot."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

BIOTECHS GET RIVAL DEALS TO BUILD ANTHRAX VACCINE

By Kendra Marr
The Washington Post
September 27, 2008

"Two rival biotechs -- Emergent BioSolutions of Rockville and PharmAthene of Annapolis -- announced yesterday that they received separate federal development contracts to build new anthrax vaccines."

"Emergent is currently the government's sole supplier of anthrax vaccine under a \$448 million contract to stockpile 18.75 million doses of BioThrax. But BioThrax requires six injections over 18 months to produce immunity and inoculated soldiers have reported serious side effects."

"The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, along with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), awarded Emergent up to \$29.7 million to develop an improved form of BioThrax that requires fewer injections but still needs to be refrigerated.

The institute also awarded PharmAthene up to \$83.9 million to create a genetically modified anthrax vaccine that can be stored at room temperature and induce immunity in just one or two doses."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/26/AR2008092603270.html?hpid=sec-health>

[Return to Top](#)

HOLT INTRODUCES ANTHRAX COMMISSION LEGISLATION - BILL WOULD CREATE 9/11 COMMISSION-STYLE PANEL TO INVESTIGATE ANTHRAX ATTACKS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Office of Congressman Rush Holt (NJ) News Release
September 24, 2008

"Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today introduced the Anthrax Attacks Investigation Act of 2008, legislation that would establish a Congressional commission to investigate the 2001 anthrax attacks and the federal government's response to and investigation of the attacks. The bipartisan commission would make recommendations to the President and Congress on how the country can best prevent and respond to any future bioterrorism attack. The attacks evidently originated from a postal box in Holt's Central New Jersey congressional district, disrupting the lives and livelihoods of many of his constituents. Holt has consistently raised questions about the federal investigation into the attacks.

"This Commission would help ensure that the families of the victims of the attacks receive the credible answers they deserve as to how the attacks happened and whether the case is really closed," Holt said. "The Commission, like the 9/11 Commission also would help

American families know that the government is better prepared to protect them and their children from future bioterrorism attacks. All of us need to have confidence that our government can quickly and successfully track down and bring to justice the perpetrators if another attack occurs."

Under Holt's legislation, the commission would be comprised of no more than six members of the same political party. The commission would hold public hearings, except in situations where classified information would be discussed. The commission would have to consult the National Academies of Sciences for recommendations on scientific staff to serve on the Commission. The Commission's final report would be due 18 months after the Commission begins operations.

The full article can be found at: http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/nj12_holt/092408.html

[Return to Top](#)

FIRST UK PROSECUTION HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, UK
September 26, 2008

"Two chemical company directors, Colin Stott and Simon Knowles, were sentenced on 24 September following convictions for failing to notify the Government that their company produced more than one tonne of a chemical controlled under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). They were fined a total of £6750 and ordered to pay £8000 towards the prosecution's costs.

Colin Stott and Simon Knowles were directors of Organic Intermediates Limited which went into liquidation in August 2004. The sentence imposed by the Liverpool Magistrates Court relates to a failure to make the necessary notification during 2002, 2003 and 2004."

"1. The chemical which triggered the need for a notification from Organic Intermediates Limited is N, N-dimethylaminoethyl-2-chloride hydrochloride (DMC), a precursor listed under Schedule 2B to the CWC. It has a number of uses in the pharmaceutical industry. A common and well-known use is in the production of antihistamines."

The full article can be found at: http://media-newswire.com/printer_friendly_1074639.html

[Return to Top](#)

CHARLES FERGUSON: BEWARE OF NEW, EASY-TO-MAKE NUKES

By Mark Anderson
Wired.com
September 22, 2008

"In the past, malefactors seeking to enrich uranium to bomb-grade quality needed either a highly conspicuous industrial plant or specialized equipment that was hard to obtain and relatively easy to monitor. But there's a new method on the horizon, and it's potentially far easier to hide.

For the past four years, Charles Ferguson has been tracking the progress of a technology known as laser isotope separation. Still experimental, it requires only a warehouse-sized space and the kind of lasers within reach of a high school science geek. "The A. Q. Khan network is old-school," Ferguson says, referring to the Pakistani scientist who sold bomb secrets to Iran, Libya, and North Korea. "The next Khan network could use this new technique."

WMD experts often overlook laser enrichment because it's not yet productive enough for industrial use. That's a serious mistake. In 2002, dissidents exposed laser experiments in Iran; at least a dozen other countries are known to have dabbled in the technique."

The full article can be found at: http://www.wired.com/politics/law/magazine/16-10/sl_ferguson

[Return to Top](#)

Chem-Demil News

UTAH GOT BURNED IN WEAPONS SCREW-UP

By Matthew D. LaPlante
The Salt Lake Tribune
September 28, 2008

"Four months.

That's how long it was supposed to take to rid Utah of its stockpile of the deadly blister agent lewisite.

The plan was to use neutralization, a chemical process that has been used in other states to eliminate swimming pool-sized stores of chemical weapons. Environmental activists broadly prefer it to incineration.

But a decade of missteps - including flawed tests that wrongly indicated neutralization didn't work - delayed the process. And just a few years after building a multimillion-dollar facility at Tooele's Deseret Chemical Depot to get the job done, the Army tore the building down.

Now the Army wants to try again - by building a new incinerator. And what was once a point of rare agreement between the military and its critics has turned contentious again."

The full article can be found at: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_10581228

[Return to Top](#)

ANCDF [ANNISTON CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY] PASSES DEMILITARIZATION 50 PERCENT MARK

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release
September 29, 2008

"The team of Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) and Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) employees achieved another significant milestone Saturday. Working together, the team has now safely demilitarized more than 50 percent of the chemical munitions stored here.

Chemical munitions have been safely stored at this northeast Alabama installation since 1961. Safe disposal operations began in August 2003. Now, more than 331,100 nerve agent-filled rockets, artillery shells, and land mines have been safely demilitarized.

Timothy K. Garrett, ANCDF government site project manager, said, "It is good that we have successfully reached another milestone in our mission of safely demilitarizing the chemical munitions here. But we still have a long way to go.

"I am very proud of the work force we have and the accomplishments made to date. The success of the work force, and the commitment to safe operations, means we have safely eliminated the bulk of the risk that was associated with the storage of the chemical munitions here for so long."

ANCDF Site Project Manager Robert C. Love said, "We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go, and we can't lose sight of that fact.

"We have been able to operate safely for more than five years now by paying attention to detail, by applying many lessons learned and by looking out for each other daily. We must continue to do those things if we are to complete the second half of the process as successfully as we did the first half, and that is exactly what we plan to do."

All 142,428 of Anniston's GB (sarin) nerve agent munitions were demilitarized between Aug. 9, 2003, and March 2, 2006. Since July 23, 2006, more than 188,670 nerve agent VX-filled munitions have been safely processed.

VX land mine disposal operations are expected to conclude early next year. The last disposal campaign, involving mustard (blister) agent-filled mortars, artillery shells and containers, will begin later in 2009 following a planned maintenance and changeover period. The ANCDF is scheduled to be decontaminated and closed at the end of all chemical munition demilitarization operations.

Other notable milestones are:

- February 29, 1996: ANCDF contract awarded to Westinghouse Anniston
- June 1997 - 2001: ANCDF construction
- August 9, 2003: ANCDF disposal operations begin
- March 2, 2006: GB nerve agent munition processing concludes
- July 23, 2006: VX nerve agent munition processing begins
- September 26, 2008: Since August 2003, ANCA employees have safely made 6,492 munition deliveries to the ANCDF"

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003678992>

[Return to Top](#)

[LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY] DEPOT TO GET UP TO \$30 MILLION IN NEW FUNDING

By Bryan Marshall

The Richmond Register [KY]

September 30, 2008

"Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell announced Saturday that the U.S. Senate approved a resolution containing his requests for up to \$30 million in additional funding for the Blue Grass Army Depot.

The legislation is now on its way to the President George W. Bush for his signature."

"Of the \$30 million, Williams said \$10 million will come out of the military construction line item in the budget and will specifically be restricted for construction purposes at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

"The other \$20 million is for the ACWA program, which captures the Kentucky and Colorado sites," he said. "It's unknown at this point in time as to what percentage of those funds will go to Colorado and what will go to Kentucky."

The full article can be found at: http://www.richmondregister.com/localnews/local_story_274081215.html

[Return to Top](#)

END of CB Daily Report.

Send subscription requests, unsubscribing requests, questions and comments to:

Sandy Banks: Sandra.Banks@anser.org

Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

Heather Williams: Heather.Williams@anser.org

Suzanne Martinez: Suzanne.Martinez@anser.org

Copyright 2008. *Analytic Services Inc.*

[Analytic Services Inc. DMCA Copyright Notice: http://www.homelandsecurity.org/bulletin/Draft_ANSER_DCMA_Copyright_Notice.htm](http://www.homelandsecurity.org/bulletin/Draft_ANSER_DCMA_Copyright_Notice.htm)

Use of these news articles does not reflect official endorsement.

In accordance with Title 17 (USC), Section 107, this material is distributed without profit or payment and is intended for nonprofit research and educational purposes only.

Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

PRIVACY POLICY

Content provided in the *CB Daily Report* does not reflect the viewpoint(s) of Analytic Services Inc. Analytic Services Inc. does not share, publish, or in any way redistribute subscriber email addresses or any other personal information.